TMA 06

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TMA 06

Word limit: 1,500 words

When you have completed this assignment, submit it via the eTMA system to arrive no later than midday on **16 May 2019**.

In no more than 1,500 words, write your answer to the following question:

Using the case of astrology, how do you assess change and continuity in early modern natural knowledge?

Guidance notes

This question tests your knowledge of a range of issues examined in Chapter 22, in particular the interplay between change and continuity in approaches to nature and the body between the late sixteenth century and late eighteenth centuries. It also helps you practise your essay-writing skills, especially the use of primary sources as evidence to build an argument, and how to structure an essay.

Astrology underwent substantial transformations in the period under consideration and you are asked to come to a conclusion as to what changed and what may have continued. You are advised to read the whole chapter again, including the online activities, and the related chapter in the set book. This will consolidate your understanding of broader issues related to early modern natural knowledge, but of course you should then pay special attention to the sources and points made in relation to astrology. You may examine changes in astronomical knowledge and attempts to reform astrology, or you may focus on how meteorological medicine related to medical astrology.

You may conclude that change was more substantial than continuity or vice-versa; you may argue that change was bound up with continuity or rather see clear cut breaks. Having examined the evidence and arguments discussed in the chapter, this is your chance to use your knowledge and formulate your own judgment. What is important is that you make a compelling case for your view. The use of a wide range of sources, including visual will be rewarded; the use of material from your independent study is encouraged, but, unlike in TMA 05, is optional.

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